

St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners



2002 Annual Report

*Preserving the Past,
Embracing the Future*





County Administrator Doug Anderson welcomes the Wal-mart representative to St. Lucie County as they announce the \$55 million distribution center



St. Lucie County commemorates the anniversary of September 11, 2001 at a county wide memorial service



Former professional football player Bernie Kosar helps promote the county-wide regional parks system referendum that was passed by St. Lucie County voters in November



St. Lucie County Road and Bridge Division employees work on the Lakewood Park Bike Path

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Board of County Commissioners

District 1—Commissioner John D. Bruhn

Over the last several years, the residents of St. Lucie County have risen to the challenge of one of the fastest growing counties in the nation.

The county's unemployment rate was the lowest it has been in years. St. Lucie County's economic growth has remained strong. With businesses, like Tropicana, expanding their work force, and with the construction of the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, nearly 1,236 jobs will be created for the residents of St. Lucie County.

With the continuing help of residents and with county leadership, St. Lucie County will continue to flourish. I feel privileged to be a part of this wonderful community and to be a part of its leadership. I look forward to another wonderful year.

District 2—Commissioner Doug Coward

It was another productive year for St. Lucie County as we continued to enhance economic development, recreation, transportation, public safety, environmental preservation, and cultural programs.

One of the primary accomplishments was the expansion and relocation of more clean industry and jobs to our community, most notably the new Wal-Mart distribution center. St. Lucie County has worked aggressively with both Cities, the Economic Development Council, and local citizens to accomplish this mission. It is important to note that without voter-approval for the various economic development incentives, much of this success would not have been possible. It is essential that we continue to diversify our tax base to promote a more sustainable economy and reduce the overall burden on individual taxpayers.



St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners from left to right: Cliff Barnes, Paula A. Lewis, Doug Coward, Frannie Hutchinson and John D. Bruhn

At the same time, we must also work to sustain and enhance our quality of life and promote a more livable community. To this end, the County has supported new and improved recreational facilities, cultural programs, and environmental preservation and restoration programs. We have also developed strong partnerships with many entities to accomplish these goals.

As we look to the future, we must also encourage high quality development to occur in appropriate locations. Redevelopment in existing urban areas and preservation of our agricultural heritage should be one of our primary goals. Let us learn from the success and failure of other high growth areas and encourage smart growth rather than costly and inefficient urban sprawl.

With the desirability of the Treasure Coast region, we will face ever-increasing challenges. And, if we work together, I am confident we can build a community that we are proud to pass on to the next generation.

District 3—Commissioner Paula A. Lewis

The year 2002 was another busy period for St. Lucie County. Coping with continued, quick population growth was, as always, our challenge, but as the national economy faltered, we remained strong in our economic growth. The advent of the massive Wal-Mart Distribution Center project was the biggest success story of the year, but the numerous other relocations and expansions were just as important overall, such as Scripps Howard's relocation to St Lucie West and Tropicana's expansion on Glades Cutoff Road. The housing market was also booming.

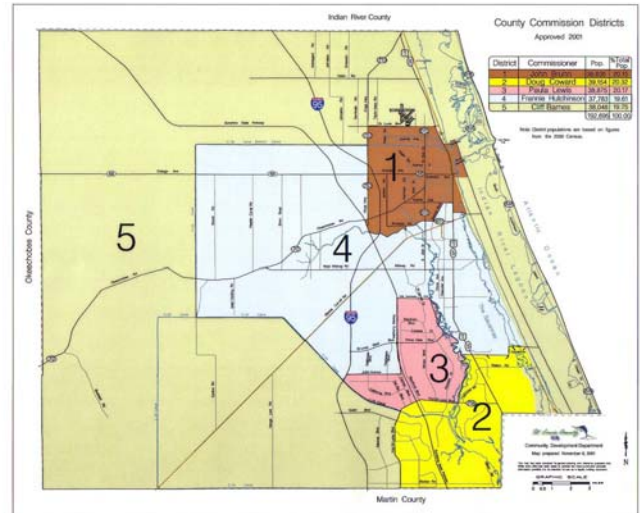
Voters assisted us in these efforts by renewal of the ad valorem tax rebate incentive in November. Also, working with the cities, we received voter approval for the recreation and parks tax referendum, which will allow us to renovate, upgrade and expand existing properties, and perhaps acquire new ones while land still remains available in strategic locations.

These efforts, which show our residents to be involved and active in helping us to continue economic development while taking care to preserve and protect the quality of life we all enjoy here, once again make me very proud of this community. They also continue to remind me how very honored I am to be a part of the leadership of St. Lucie County, and to strengthen my commitment to all our residents as we move forward.

District 4—Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson

Serving St. Lucie County has been a privilege and a pleasure this past year. Economic Development has been a priority and I am very excited about the Wal-mart Distribution Center, Tropicana's expansion, Scripps Howard and many other relocation and expansion projects.

I look forward to working with all of you on issues that affect our community. We are blessed to have such a beautiful and diverse county and I will continue to work for a positive future for our children and residents. I proudly call St. Lucie County my home and look forward to a working partnership with our citizens and other elected officials.



District 5—Commissioner Cliff Barnes

One of my favorite sayings is "When the people lead, the leaders will follow." As we begin 2003, I reflect on the positive changes that the people of St. Lucie County have brought about. In the past, residents have approved referendums to preserve oceanfront land, establish tax incentives for new and expanding businesses, buy environmentally sensitive lands, improve our school system and preserve land in our harbor for public access and mixed use development. Residents have also supported this Commission's efforts to establish an effective storm water utility, begin cleanup of area waterways, and expand our cultural and economic development programs. This past November, the voters again led the way by approving a small tax increase to our recreational and greenway systems. This community has wonderful

people who have a great vision for St. Lucie County, and I am honored to serve them.



County Administrator

Dear Citizens of St. Lucie County:

2002 was a great year in the history of St. Lucie County and economic development! We were able to close three major economic deals using county incentive programs. The first, Scripps Treasure Coast Publishing Company approved a \$45 million printing plant in Port St. Lucie in November. This plant, which is to be constructed this year, will consist of 125,000 square feet and employ 100 jobs. The second, Wal-Mart Corporation approved a \$55 million distribution center in the unincorporated area of the county. Construction of the 1,200,000 square foot facility is to begin in September and employ 1,200 jobs at full operation. The third, Tropicana Products, Inc. approved a \$23 million expansion at their facility located on Glades Cut-Off Road. This expansion is for a new packaging line and will be completed this year. It will employ 36 high paying jobs.

In November 2002, the voters of St. Lucie County approved two referendums. The first was to construct a county-wide regional parks system over 20 years using a millage rate up to .25 mills. Over the 20 years, this will generate approximately \$60 million in capital funds for regional parks. The second was a continuation of the ad valorem tax exemption program for new businesses locating to our county or expansion of existing businesses such as Tropicana Products, Inc. The original ad valorem tax abatement program was approved by the voters 10 years ago and was sunset under state law. During its existence it helped create approximately 5,000 new jobs in our community. We thank you, the taxpayers of St. Lucie County, for having the faith in county government to approve these two referendums. We won't let you down.

As we go into 2003 we have challenges ahead of us. We continue to struggle with the Fine and Forfeiture Budget. This is the budget that funds the court system, Sheriff's Office and jail. As the County

continues to grow at a rapid pace the demands on these operations continue to increase. We are going to work with our citizen advisory committees on how best to meet these demands while at the same time controlling the costs. We are also attempting to bring the mega yacht industry to the Port of Fort Pierce. This is a very complex project, but if successful, will result in a public-private partnership of almost \$200 million and will have a significant economic impact on the local economy.

We have a lot to look forward to in the upcoming year. A new 15 year contract with the New York Mets, television broadcasting of County meetings, construction of a new Walton Road Annex, widening of South 25th Street, construction of an addition to the Administration Complex together with a new facade and the opening of the new 200 acre County Fairgrounds! We are definitely making progress and thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Douglas M. Anderson,
County Administrator



*Douglas M. Anderson,
County Administrator*

*Raymond Wazny,
Assistant County Administrator*



County Attorney and Property Acquisitions

The primary function of the County Attorney's Office is to provide legal representation and advice to the Board of County Commissioners and its staff. Other functions include attendance at meetings of the Board and Board Advisory Committee Meetings and various other meetings of various bodies as directed by the Board of County Commissioners; providing legal service for several constitutional officers and coordinating the efforts of other attorneys representing constitutional officers and other governmental bodies as required.

Additionally, the County Attorney's Office initiates, presents and conducts litigation brought on behalf of the Board and defends or actively participates in the defense of actions brought against the County at both the trial and appellate levels in State and Federal Courts.

The County Attorney's Office drafted 25 Ordinances from January 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002, a total of 241 Resolutions consisting of 235 for the Board of County Commissioners; 3 for the Mosquito Control District; 3 for the Erosion Control District.

The Property Acquisitions Division under the County Attorney maintains original deeds and documents of properties acquired by the County for subdivisions, roads, easements, environmental lands, and various projects that take place in the County.

Additionally, the Property Acquisitions Division reviews Site Plans; processes Petitions for Abandonments; reviews utility permits; reserves street names for the entire County for future development; processes street name changes within the unincorporated area of the County; reviews and processes donation requests and prepares license agreements. Significant time is spent responding to

questions from the public, other governmental entities, as well as other county departments regarding county owned properties and rights of way. There were 246 Tax Deed Applications processed this year.

During 2002, the Property Acquisition Division completed several major projects, including the acquisition of easements for the South Hutchinson Island Wastewater System and the Treasure Cove/Ocean Harbour South MSBU Projects. Staff closed on the following projects this year: Westmoreland



The County Attorney's office worked with county officials to purchase this property located on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River from Atlantic Gulf Communities, Inc.

River Park (75% funded by Florida Communities Trust), New South County Administration Annex, 12 Acre Parcel owned by Atlantic Gulf Communities on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, Retention Pond and right-of-way for the intersection improvements at Selvitz and Edwards Road, and various right-of-way and land donations throughout the county.

The Acquisition Division continues to acquire property as part of the Environmental Significant Lands Program. Florida Communities Trust (FCT) funded nine projects in November 2001. A significant amount of staff time is spent preparing the necessary due diligence required by FCT. It is anticipated that eight of these projects will close in fiscal year 2003.



Airport

2002 has seen a time of economic and domestic upheaval throughout America. St. Lucie County International Airport has been fortunate as growth still continues.

St. Lucie County International Airport employs a staff of eight, five maintenance and three administrative, and maintains the safety and security of 3,660 acres in North County. Our mission is to serve general aviation and the air transportation needs of the community through full development of County owned property for commercial and industrial businesses.

Completed Projects

- Airport Maintenance Facility;
- Airport Master Plan Update;
- Airfield Signage Upgrades; and
- Airport Perimeter Security Fence Phase 1.

Ongoing Projects

- Airport Industrial Park West;
- Environmental Assessment for Parallel Runway; and
- Airport Perimeter Security Fence Phase 2 and 3.

Initiated Projects

- FAR Part 150 Noise Study;
- Runway 14/32 rehabilitation;
- Airfield Lighting System Replacement;
- Customs HVAC system replacement;
- Terminal Roof Replacement;
- Taxiway Alpha Extension;
- Drainage Improvements; and
- Airport Strategic Business and Marketing Plan.



Mirabella Yachts Albatross plane



Florida Coastal Airlines initiated scheduled service to Fort Lauderdale, Marathon and the Bahamas from St. Lucie County Airport

In 2002, Florida Coastal Airlines officially received their certificate of operations from the FAA for scheduled service to Fort Lauderdale, Marathon and the Bahamas. This operation, along with changing security regulations by the Transportation Security Administration, designates the airport as a Category IV airport. As such, the airport will be developing an Airport Security Plan and Airport Emergency Plan in the near future. It is always a priority of Airport Administration to assure the safe and secure use of the airport by the public.

Airport Statistics for 2002

- 190 based aircraft, 189,000 operations per year;
- 12th busiest in the State of Florida;
- 20th busiest in the FAA Southern Region;
- The opening of two new operators:
 - Treasure Coast Jet Center - full service jet maintenance facility; and
 - Turk Air – a cargo operation to the Bahamas.

Central Services

Central Services Department is comprised of seven divisions. These divisions act as support services by working together and providing various services to County Departments as well as other County Agencies. Currently Central Services has 93 employees. Our goal is to offer prompt professional assistance at the highest quality and the lowest cost, while maintaining all County facilities or overseeing remodeling and construction of new facilities. We are responsible for more than 1.4 million square feet of buildings throughout St. Lucie County. The ability to accomplish a majority of the work in-house verses contracting it out has proved to be cost saving as well as time saving for the County. One example of this is the Village Green Governmental Annex. On December 13th, 2003 a fire caused extensive damage to the building. The *Administrative/Judicial Maintenance Division* quickly and professionally handled what could have turned into a long renovation project. Within three weeks and at an approximate cost of \$75,000, they were able to paint walls, replace carpet, linoleum, furniture and ceiling tiles and have offices up and running again.

Accomplishments

General Maintenance Division — completed renovation of the Commission Chambers, renovated the 4th floor of the State Attorney's Office, renovated the Civic Center lobby restrooms, replaced the Data House/Treatment Center roof, completed interior renovation of the Port St. Lucie Library, replaced a dune crossover at Normandy Beach, renovated the Fort Pierce Community Center and painted the exterior of numerous County buildings.

Air-Conditioning Division — continued to service and maintain 3,600 tons of air-conditioning to over 50 buildings within St. Lucie County. To improve the systems used to heat and cool County buildings within the last year, they have made it their goal to replace antiquated equipment with more energy efficient equipment.

Rock Road Jail Maintenance Division — staff maintains 171,000 square feet of building space. This facility receives regular mock inspections on the maintenance and security of this building. The Certified Auditors did one such inspection in August. The Florida Correction Association Commission followed this up with a walk-through in November. This inspection received high marks and it was reported that this was the best this facility has been given.

Housekeeping Division — responsible for 28 individual buildings that range from approximately 1,300 sq. feet to 190,000 sq. feet. This past year proved to be most successful as well as cost saving for Housekeeping. The decision to no longer contract out the work and go in-house has allowed staff to be more flexible and accommodating to other departments when performing regular cleaning duties and not resulting in additional charges for "special cleaning request".



Central Services employees renovate the County Commission Chambers



Central Services

Service Garage Division — the County adopted a Fleet Management/Replacement Plan to save the County money on vehicle repair and maintenance. To date this cost-effective measurement has resulted in a continual upgrading of all county vehicles, less down time and more fuel-efficient vehicles. Currently they maintain 220 light fleet and 89 heavy equipment that is used by the County. In addition fuel is stored and dispensed at this location. To give an example of how much fuel is used for county vehicles, within a six-month period (April – Sept. 2002) they used 85,600 gallons of gasoline at a cost of \$98,960.89 and 64,911 gallons of diesel at a cost of \$69,195.96

Central Services has also had great results in utilizing grant funding to assist with several projects. Currently we are responsible for the implementation of \$1,944,340.00 in grant funds to assist with the completion of:

- Savanna's Campground;
- South Causeway Island;
- Hurricane Shutters on County buildings;
- Ft. Pierce Inlet Boat Ramp;
- Development of Ancient Oaks Park; and
- Dollman Beach Park.



Dune crossover replaced at Herman's Bay



Renovated Fort Pierce Community Center

Additional Completed Projects

- Black Pearl Boat Ramp Dock Extension;
- Observation Tower and Bridge at North Indrio Savannas;
- Renovation of Port St. Lucie Pool Restrooms;
- Roof Replacement at State Attorney's Office Empire I & II;
- Roof Replacement at Administration Building;
- Bridges at Spruce Bluff Preserve;
- Awnings at Milner Health Department; and
- Dune Crossovers at Normandy Beach and Herman's Bay .

Ongoing Projects

- Lawnwood Tennis Courts;
- Restroom/Concession at South County Stadium;
- Development stages of the new Clerk of Court Building; and
- Upgrading of Security System at Rock Road Jail; and
- Roof Replacement at Gardner House, Lincoln Park Community Center, Mosquito Control, Rock Road Jail, UDT Seal Museum, Walton Community Center.

Community Development

The Department of Community Development is comprised of four divisions, Planning, Economic Development, Tourist Development and Geographic Information Systems. The Department is staffed by 26 persons in both professional and technical positions. The Department of Community Development provides support and advice on property, land use and development related matters to not only the Board of County Commissioners, but also the Planning and Zoning Commission; Board of Adjustment; the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and various other Board appointed committees and task forces.

The Planning Division is responsible for all short and long term community planning efforts and activities. Short term planning activities include the review of all proposed development activities in the County for compliance with County regulations and for assessing and monitoring the impacts of those development proposals on the communities' infrastructure and environmental resources. Long term planning involves the development of the county comprehensive plan and other policy documents and directives that are intended to define the future of St. Lucie County.

The Planning Division also provides staffing support for the St. Lucie County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is a Countywide transportation planning organization that is responsible for working with State and Federal officials in order to ensure that the primary transportation network in the community operates efficiently.

The Planning Division provides support for the County's continuing efforts at preserving the remaining unique native habitat in the community through the County's Environmental Land Preservation Program. Since the program's inception in the early 1990s, the County has successfully leveraged 20 million dollars in local bond proceeds into approximately 70 million dollars on actual land purchases by partnering with the State of Florida. This has resulted in the perpetual preservation of approximately 6,000 acres of unique natural habitat.

The Economic Development Division is responsible for assisting existing businesses encouraging new businesses and industries to locate in St. Lucie County and to facilitate the available state and federal support programs that can be used for economic development activities. Over the past year, the County's Economic Development Division, working with our many partners in community, has been successful in attracting several major new industries to the county including Wal-Mart Corporation newest distribution center, Scripps-Howard Regional printing center and Tropicana industries newest juice production facilities. Together these three businesses, upon opening, will expand the local employment base by almost 1,300 new jobs.

The Tourist Development Division is responsible for the marketing and advertising of St. Lucie County throughout the eastern United States and Western Europe. The Tourist Development Division provides staff support to the St. Lucie County Tourist Development Council whose charge is to monitor the expenditure of the Local Tourist Tax dollars and see that funds collected through these "Tourist Taxes" are reinvested back into the community in order to attract additional tourists to the area. With the recent reauthorization of the Local Tourist Tax, the County is now in a position to fund improvements to the St. Lucie County Sports Complex; contribute to the development of the "Cooperstown Field of Dreams Youth Sports Park" at PGA Villages and to provide for expanded marketing and special grant programs to generate interest in our local community on a statewide, national and international basis, beginning in 2004 with State of Florida Law Enforcement Games.

The Geographic Information System Division of the Department is responsible for all mapping and technical support for the many automated programs that the Department uses. In coordination with the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser and The County's Information Technology Department, the GIS Division maintains up to date County base maps that depict land use and physical feature information for the County. One of the primary objectives of the Department is to be able to make available in real time, WEB based property and land use information for the entire County.



Community Services

The Community Services Division assisted 159 families with various areas of emergency needs: rent/mortgage payments, utility payments/deposits, prescription medication, meals for seniors, food vouchers, car repair, camp scholarships and processed 70 requests for pauper burials and 61 requests for out of county hospital bills.

Thirty-one families received either down payment assistance to purchase a new home or repair their existing home with a total value of \$1,677,441. Funding for this program was through the State Housing Initiative Partnership Program (SHIP).

There were 688,966 transportation trips coordinated with Community Transit for the Transportation Disadvantaged, public transit, Medicaid and employment transportation programs.



Community Services staff members Mary Bell, Sandy Gilfillan, Pauline Tolbert and Beth Ryder assemble county employee donations for Thanksgiving Food Baskets

950 needy children received Christmas gifts through a program that was a partnership with a non-profit organization and 12 families were adopted for the holidays through the adopt-a-family program. Nine families were assisted with Thanksgiving food baskets through a food drive by County employees.



The new Treasure Coast Connector bus service started this year

Through careful processing of Medicaid Hospital, Nursing Home and Health Care Responsibility Act billings, saved the county \$1,040,294.

Staff worked with the Florida Association of Counties to monitor legislative initiatives that impact the county fiscally or with loss of state funding for programs. Staff is liaison with various community agencies, and serves on the Board of Directors of the St. Lucie County Emergency Food and Shelter Program, the Treasure Coast Community Coalition, Coalition for the Homeless and on the United Way Budget Review Committee. This division is a First Stop Center for referral services throughout the area. A Veteran Services Officer is located in Community Services and provides services to our area veterans.

Cooperative Extension

The St. Lucie County Cooperative Extension office helps St. Lucie County in several major areas: Agribusiness, 4-H, Natural Resources and Energy Conservation, Family and Consumer Sciences, Marine Science, Commercial and Homeowner Horticulture and Commercial Citrus Production. Our staff consists of seven Extension Agents, one Multi-County Agent housed in Martin County, three full time Program Assistants, one Executive Secretary, four Office Assistant III's, one Office Assistant I and a Maintenance Technician IV. Because of the newly established cooperative effort between this office and the St. Lucie County School Board for implementation of the Agriscience Education Program, our staff now also includes an Agriscience Instructor/Leader and a Vocational Agricultural Technician. All staff contributed to the many successes Extension experienced in 2002.

- Staff and volunteers working with the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program offered a series of horticulture programs at local libraries



4-H members cleaning up the community

to more than 230 participants. The FYN program focuses on pollution reduction within the community.

- More than 926 people visited the Hurricane House this year to receive information on hurricane preparedness and building construction. Programs in these areas are in demand and will continue to be offered.
- Extension began a cooperative partnership with the St. Lucie County School Board to promote vocational education at the Agriscience Education Center.
- Extension coordinated pro-active programs for West Nile Virus awareness and preparedness with the help of various county and University of Florida departments.

- Program Assistants helped Agents by delivering School Enrichment Programs in the elementary and secondary schools on topics such as wetlands preservation, insect identification, ocean life, livestock and farming awareness, plant propagation, nutrition, and seat belt safety, reaching 16,444 students. Extension takes advantage of other county facilities to educate students in marine science and agriculture.



FFA member with her steer

- More than 400 county youth were involved in 4-H clubs and camps.
- Pesticide applicators can still depend on the assistance of the Cooperative Extension office in obtaining applicator certification and continued education credits in order to retain their pesticide licenses. There were over 1,608 participants attending the courses offered last year. This year, programs on invasive plant management were incorporated into the program; 148 participated.
- Records kept throughout the year indicate that agents received 8,401 telephone requests, visited 3,489 clients, and had more than 1,873 customers visit the Extension office. There were more than 56,405 participants attending the 1,299 programs and seminars offered by Extension Agents in 2002. Extension distributed 126,292 educational materials to interested county residents.



Cultural Affairs

The St. Lucie County Cultural Affairs Council was officially recognized by the State in 1990 as the County's official local arts agency. It acts as the primary catalyst for the support and development of cultural assets and programming in the County. Constituted as a 501c3 non-profit organization, the Council is governed by a fifteen-member Board of Directors appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. It oversees the distribution of the proceeds from the sale of the "State of the Arts" license tags through its annual mini-grant program. This mechanism funds support for a wide variety of local cultural programming.

This year, County administration recognized



Captain Halyard Salty, created by local artist R. L. Freeman Davenport and sponsored by the Fort Pierce City Marina, was part of the year long Sea Cows on Parade project on the Treasure Coast

the need to focus on the growing demands of "quality of life" issues from a strategic visionary viewpoint. The position of Executive Director of the Cultural



Night Train mural in downtown Fort Pierce painted by Blue Sky

Affairs Council was established in late 2002 and funded under the County's 2003 administration budget. It was created to implement the efforts of the Cultural Affairs Council as well as to begin the process of long term planning and development of permanent cultural assets in the community. Executive Director Jon Ward expressed the long term vision of the Council as "to act as a vehicle to create in St. Lucie County residents a strong sense of cultural identity, pride and purpose by developing quality permanent cultural facilities augmented by sustainable year-round lifestyle programming."



Osceola Holding Informal Court With His Chiefs, painted by Lucille Blanch, was located at the Historic Post Office in downtown Fort Pierce but now is on display at Fort Pierce City Hall

Grants

St. Lucie County's Grant Writers were directly responsible for securing greater than \$3.4 million in increased funding for a wide variety of County projects. An additional \$3 million in grant applications, that were written during the 2001/2002 fiscal year, remain pending.

Grants received assisted the following projects:

- Acquisition of property to expand White City Park (\$200,000);
- Recreational improvements to Ancient Oaks Park (\$200,000);
- St. Lucie County Historical Museum exhibits (\$35,000);
- Recreational improvements to Middle Cove Park (\$75,000);
- Recreational improvements to Little Jim Boat Ramp (\$50,000);
- Sidewalk linking Environmental Center with schools on St. James Drive (\$250,000);
- Avenue J pedestrian bridge linking Sunland Gardens with schools and recreation areas (\$95,000);
- Environmental lands acquisition in northern St. Lucie County (\$1,102,500);
- Indian River Estates drainage improvements (\$600,000);
- Airport Industrial Park utility improvements (\$788,000);
- Children's Environmental Center (\$30,000); and
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator (\$33,000).



*Large slash pines at Indrio
Blueway Buffer*



Little Jim Bridge boat ramp

In addition, the Grant Writers provided assistance to numerous nonprofit organizations to help them identify potential grant sources. Their goal for the 2002/2003 fiscal year is to acquire \$4 million in grant funds.



Human Resources

The Human Resources Department (HR) is comprised of five employees for Employee & Labor Relations, three employees for the Risk Management Division and two part-time employees for the mailroom to serve a workforce of over 800 employees.

Accomplishments

- Provided supervisory training for 94 employees;
- Provided time management training for 220 employees;
- Provided administrative support training for 45 employees;
- Provided customer service training for 208 employees;
- Provided diversity training for 566 employees;
- Provided teamwork training for 539 employees;
- Provided retirement investment training for all employees;
- Headed collection of school supplies for underprivileged children;
- Headed collection of food for the less fortunate for Thanksgiving;
- Headed collection of Christmas toys for underprivileged children;
- Completed the third year of the implementation of the pay and classification study;
- Processed for new employment 135 full-time employees, 55 part-time employees with limited benefits and 60 temporary employees;
- Organized Employee Awards Breakfast where over 56 Board of County Commission employees and 25 employees from Constitutional Offices were awarded plaques for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service to St. Lucie County;
- Processed over 2,953 applications from the public;
- Converted all employee files to a numeric system;
- Currently scanning all employee files to allow viewing on department computers;
- Currently testing process in which to scan all applications with online reviewing;
- Conducted County building fire and safety code inspections; and
- Maintained Property Casualty Risk Program for County assets.



Management Training class organized by Human Resources and conducted by IRCC

Information Technology

The mission of the Information Technology Department is to provide the solutions, tools and support that ensures the highest possible return on our customer's investment in information systems. The function of Information Technology is to provide our customers with:

1. A robust and stable network environment
2. Innovative web research, design and support
3. Dependable quality hardware, software, operations and customer service support
4. Diverse application and database support
5. Advanced and cost effective technology solutions

While maintaining the existing infrastructure, Information Technology also recommends and implements new technology to meet the needs of our customers for the future. The department has 55 positions to provide support to the County organization, covering over thirty-five locations and the J19C Judicial Courts System which includes the local four-County Treasure Coast area.

As the County grows, so does the importance of the utilization of information technology which has become a cost effective means of meeting the needs of the future. Information Technology will provide a means of sharing resources, reducing operating costs and implementing improvements in the quality and efficiency of services rendered to the public.



*Jackie Mosley,
Network
Desktop
Technician*



Information Technology support staff for the Sheriff's Office — Pete Cotter, Analyst Supervisor; Robin Hguyen-Curby, Analyst; John Leis, Network Desktop technician and Troy Walker, Network Desktop Technician

Accomplishments

- Banner System upgrade;
- Kronos System upgrade;
- Communications network upgrade;
- Customer service expanded service to Sheriff's Office;
- Computer training program – 230 trained since March 2002;
- Server replacement consolidation project;
- Internet Bandwidth upgrade;
- Intranet services expanded;
- Laser fiche system upgrade;
- PC replacement program;
- Phone system replacement and upgrade;
- Sheriff's Office technology upgrades;
- Security upgrades and standards implemented; and
- Infrastructure upgrades.



Library

The Library Department is responsible for providing access to high-interest and popular reading materials at all public libraries. The Library is responsible for providing accurate and up-to-date reference/information service at all public libraries. The library provides programs for children from ages 0-12 throughout the year; the library provides programs for the adult population via outside speakers and authors. The library offers these services through five (5) branch locations, one Bookmobile, Books-by-mail program, Nursing Home rotating collection and through a library cooperative on IRCC/St. Lucie West campus. The Library has 66 full time employees, 10 part-time employees and 50 volunteers.

- Weekly computer training classes at four (4) branch locations;
- Opened Fort Pierce Branch Library on Sunday afternoons (1:00-5:00 p.m.);
- 987 Children's programs conducted with 28,531 in attendance;
- 135,000+ registered library patrons;
- 6,115 volunteer hours donated by local citizens;
- Sunday column in Tribune on the Book Page;

Gary Monroe, author of the book titled "The Highwaymen," signed books as part of the Florida Humanities Council Program at the Fort Pierce Library



Lisa, Jim, Helen and Carnelle — Regular volunteers for Friends of the Library at Friday Fest

- 6,406,215 virtual visits to networked library resources;
- Business partner recognition reception;
- \$15,000+ raised via Branch Library book sales for the Friends of the St. Lucie County Library;
- Science Fair and DAR Essay Contest links to library's website which allowed students to conduct research from home on their topics, as well as within the libraries;
- Staff participated in various festivities within the community to help promote the library; and
- Florida Humanities Council programs presented to highlight Florida authors.

Mosquito Control District

The Mosquito Control District uses a variety of tools to monitor and control the mosquito population. Most people are familiar with the mosquito trucks that are used for spraying mosquitoes, but the service of the Mosquito Control District also includes monitoring programs, trapping, analysis of environmental information and use of impoundments. The Mosquito Control District encompasses 289 square miles within St. Lucie County. The District employs 20 full-time and 10-14 part-time/temporary positions in the following four divisions: administration, biology, ground adulticiding and impoundment operations.

Accomplishments

- Continued success in maintaining effective control of nuisance mosquitoes through Integrated Pest Management practices due to funding increases;
- Effective response to 752 service requests;
- Further development and refinement of vector control and sentinel monitoring efforts and improved coordination with state (DOH and FMEL) and federal (CDC) health agencies as part of the state-wide West Nile virus and Saint Louis Encephalitis Response Plans;
- Addition of computer-assisted spray truck GPS mapping - Conversion of Monitor 3 to 3L;
- Continuation of Bear Point Mitigation Bank Development and Permitting;
- Refinement of Open Marsh Water Impoundment Management - Open Culvert Modification;
- Continuation of successful Brazilian pepper/exotic plant eradication and maintenance program for 30 miles of mosquito impoundment dikes;
- Implementation of Impoundment Water Quality Improvement Grant Projects for Bear Point Sanctuary, Queens Island Preserve and FPL Environmental Lands sites;
- Sponsor for successful land acquisition effort for Indrio Blueway Buffer (105 acres) from HBOI — site to be used for preservation, conservation, public access and management/restoration of mosquito control impoundment;
- Successful acquisition of 76 acres of the Pepper Park Addition - FCT project site, to be used for preservation, conservation, public access/mitigation and management/restoration of the mosquito control impoundment;
- Completion of public access permitting activities at Vitolo Family Park at Middle Cove Park-Riverside, and completion of public access structures for Kings Island Preserve;
- Completion of the Phase I South Hutchinson Island Bicycle Path buffer mitigation and initiation of Phase II permit mitigation planning coordination with the Public Works Division;
- Development and promulgation of salt-water wetland mitigation opportunities to private and public entities;
- Sponsor for initiation of feasibility study of TAWES project for Blind Creek; if successful, would target restoration of over 600 acres of seagrass beds and water quality improvements for up to 800 acres of coastal wetlands;
- Implementation of Homeland Security upgrade for Mosquito Control Compound area;
- Initiation of Dosage, Drift, Efficacy and Non-target Study with PHEREC;
- Initiation of Chemical Exposure Study with PHEREC;
- Initiation of Trapping Methods Testing with IFAS-Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory;
- Initiation of coordination with the Fairgrounds development and planning effort, targeting protection of future visitors and livestock;
- Initiation of Mosquito Impoundment Species Diversity and Benthic Ecology Studies in coordination with the Smithsonian Institute Marine Station; and
- Initiation of coordination with Michigan Street Industrial Development Project for wetland restoration/mitigation of mosquito impoundment.



Pump station at Bear Point recently constructed for water quality improvement



Office of Management and Budget

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget's staff of professionals include six analysts, one analyst intern, an executive secretary and an accountant. The analysts and the intern analyst are assigned specific areas of responsibility, the most visible being their role as the primary point of contact, for budget issues, between the departments and OMB. Other responsibilities include grants oversight, revenue and/or expenditure forecasting, monitoring the Board's debt schedule, monitoring funds and estimating cash balances, conducting statistical analysis, developing pro forma models, and preparing studies at the request of the County Administrator or Board. The accountant is charged with bringing the county's fixed asset ledger into compliance with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 34.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) assists the County Administrator in the preparation of the Board's annual budget. This process typically begins in January with a meeting between OMB staff and the departmental budget coordinators and ends the third week of September when the Board approves the budget and millage rates for the next fiscal year. This past year OMB coordinated the actions of the Board, the Administrator, the Constitutional Officers, the statutorily mandated agencies, and the various departments in developing a \$315.9 million dollar budget consisting of 1,017 pages and more than 16,000 entries.

OMB personnel are actively involved in every aspect of managing the St. Lucie County budget throughout the entire year. Whether processing line item transfers, preparing budget resolutions/amendments, reconciling issues with Purchasing and Finance or working with the County Administrator, Financial Advisor and Bond Counsel to establish the funding for board-approved projects, OMB is the focal point for any action impacting the approved budget.

OMB's main goals are:

- To work in concert with the Board, County Administrator, Directors, and financial consultants/institutions to ensure the Board adheres to the highest principals of fiscal management;
- To increase the understanding of county staff and the citizens of St. Lucie County about fiscal issues relating to the county;
- To judiciously guard the funds entrusted to our care by the citizens of St. Lucie County and ensure the public is receiving the greatest value for their money;
- To produce an even more professional budgeting document by incorporating more quantitative analysis, longer range forecasting and useful performance measurements that reflect St. Lucie County's evolving status commensurate with being a desirable location and the fastest growing area in the State; and
- To develop a 'Budget In Brief' containing the essential data that can be made available to all citizens of St. Lucie County upon request.

Accomplishments

- For the fifth consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association has reviewed the St. Lucie County budget document and presented their "*Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*,"
- Added an accountant position to the OMB staff to address certain GASB Statement 34 issues;
- Posted the St. Lucie County budget onto the county web page enabling anyone with internet access to view the entire document;
- Posted the Budget Prepbook to the Intranet to assist Departmental Budget Coordinators in preparation of their individual annual budgets;
- Began development of a 5-Year Budget Planning document;
- Monitored 41 individual debt obligations issued by the Board and ensured the payments, totaling \$10.3 million, were made in a timely manner;
- Managed the \$295.8 million dollar fiscal year 2002 Budget; and
- Oversaw the management of 154 Grants valued at \$25,657,240.

Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Administration Division was involved in many exciting and challenging projects in 2002. Along with the daily work schedule of the Parks and Recreation Administration Division, the most visible and successful project was the promoting, campaigning and the approval of Referendum #14 for the people of St. Lucie County. The hard work and dedication that we received from other county departments and outside support from The Trust for Public Lands to assist us in the campaigning of the Referendum was instrumental which resulted in a great achievement for the County.

Other projects that the Parks and Recreation Administrative Division were involved with included the renovations and improvements to the existing field at Lakewood Park, the construction of a pick-up play softball field with chain-linked winged back-stop and the treatment for removal of the Brazilian Pepper plants and Australian Pine trees at the newly named Firefighter's Field (Pepper Park).

Along with the great team effort of the Sports Complex and Parks Division staff, we completed approximately \$390,000 worth of improvements to the T.J. White Stadium funded by Investment for the Future funds and maintenance budget line accounts for the New York Spring Training Season.

It is without saying that all of Parks and Recreation accomplishments have been a great team effort and we continue to break strides in maintaining, improving, repairing and renovating all of the county parks and recreation facilities to promote the quality of life for the people of St. Lucie County.

Aquatics

The Recreation Division's Aquatics program operates three pools open to county residents. Responding to events in St. Lucie County, the Aquatics staff has focused on safety and swimming

instruction. They are working closely with other community groups to increase the resources available to train more children in water survival skills. Aquacise classes were started at the Port St. Lucie pool and evening swim hours have been added in response to the community's request. Staff is in the process of planning for renovations of the Port St. Lucie pool, which will hopefully take place in late 2003.

Civic Center

The Civic Center continues to support a variety of community and entertainment events. It has a loyal following of groups who continue to reserve the space for their activities and programs. During 2002, there were 80 events held, which was an increase from the number of events in 2001. Room 101 is used extensively for County employee training and meetings. It is also rented for weddings, medium size meetings and other social functions.

Savannas Recreation Area

The Savannas Recreation Area is becoming a widely used facility within the Recreation Division. During



Fishing at the Savannas

2002, we held a Wildlife Expo and a kids Fishing Day. Staff continues to plan and implement improvements funded by the Florida Recreation Development

Assistance Program. Restoration of bridges and installation of a playground have been completed and additional pavilions are on the near horizon. The campground has maintained high occupancy rates and is complimented for its natural setting.



Parks and Recreation

Sports and Athletics

The Sports and Athletics section is experiencing strong demand for use of Parks and Recreation sports facilities. The School District, youth organizations and others who rent the facilities continually use the Lawnwood Sports Complex, Lakewood Park Complex, South County Regional stadium and other areas. In 2002, requests for adult soccer leagues increased quite a bit and staff has made every effort to accommodate these teams. With the passage of the parks referendum, we are looking forward to the expansion of recreational facilities in order to satisfy the requests for more programming.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Lakewood Park Complex

St. Lucie County Marine Center

The St. Lucie County Marine Center celebrated its first anniversary with an open house in November 2002. The Smithsonian Institution, our partner at the Center, continues to add educational information and displays to the offerings. A total of 15,290 people visited the Center last year.

Community Centers

With additional support from the Board of County Commissioners, both the Fort Pierce Community Center and Lincoln Park Community Center increased their program offerings in 2002. Summer camps for kids were extended by two weeks and more activities added. More special events were held on weekends. Lincoln Park has introduced such new programs as a teen mentor program and community choir while continuing to offer an after school program. Fort Pierce Community Center began offering senior seminars on various topics, social events and a book club. This location, along the Indian River Lagoon, lends itself to many rental requests for private parties, weddings and other functions.

Historical Museum

The St. Lucie County Historical Museum gained local attention this year because of several interesting exhibits on display. The "Florida: Before the Mouse" exhibit reminded visitors of the things that attracted tourists to Florida prior to Disney World's opening. The Museum also hosted a local exhibit featuring East Coast Lumber's 100th anniversary. Staff held 3 one-week history camps and another camp during the holidays for children. These were additions to the programming offered and were well received. Some of the permanent collection exhibits were updated and this work will continue.

Parks Division

The Parks Division is dedicated to providing quality, customer-focused parks services that meet the needs of St. Lucie County residents, consistent with the initiatives of the Board of County Commissioners.

The Parks Division currently maintains 38 parks, covering 1,450 acres, 19 beach access sites, 12 beach-front parks, 22 landscaped government sites, 13 boat ramps, the preparation of 23 ball fields and 3 stadiums. We service these facilities with landscaping, grounds maintenance, as well as irrigation, plumbing, fencing and facility maintenance. We anticipate adding the maintenance of the new boat ramp facility at Little Jim Bridge and will accept the maintenance responsibilities for the new 250-acre Fairgrounds located in western St. Lucie County.

Major emphasis was placed on improving the safety and playability of the sports fields. Due to wind erosion, continuous working of the clay infields and hard play, dangerous lips that will cause an erratic roll of hard hit balls were eliminated. This repair, accompanied with fence and bleacher repair, has resulted in a more user-friendly facility. We were able to accomplish a partial renovation of Lawnwood Stadium. Many out-of-county tournament users of these fields have praised their quality and have sought information that will allow them to improve their hometown facilities that will make them equal to St. Lucie County.

Parks and Recreation

The Parks Division supports Recreation in many valuable ways. We prepare and maintain fields in the spring for 118 visiting baseball teams from all over the nation, keeping fields in top condition during optimal usage. We work in cooperation with the Athletic Department of Centennial High School to help meet their special needs and requests for school sporting events. We support high school football and boys and girls soccer, as well as community-based sports programs at South County Stadium through field maintenance and landscaping. The high use of this facility requires special maintenance practices. A major improvement that we made at South County Stadium is the upgrade of the irrigation system to maintain the integrity of the fields. At T.J. White Stadium our landscapers assist stadium personnel to maintain

native plants and wetland areas. In addition, we work with them to prepare for spring training for the New York Mets and the



New York Mets Training Complex

St. Lucie Mets minor league season and provide administrative and support staff to cover Mets games. We are also involved with on-going improvements requested by the Mets organization.

We assist Recreation in preparing for concerts and special events at South County Stadium and Veteran's Park, the Martin Luther King festivities, the Cattleman's Parade, the annual Seal Muster, Special Olympics activities and Fun Days throughout the year. The expertise of our ball field and grounds crews as well as the electrical, irrigation, and carpentry skills of our trades crew is essential to the support of these varied recreational activities.

Sports Complex

Major projects that were successfully completed in 2002 at the Thomas J. White Stadium include: the renovations to four back ball fields, replacement of the clay and turf, installation of a new warning track on field #2, installation of the new bathroom stalls in stadium, replacement of the old stadium seating, repairing ticket office and county office roof leaks and the replacement and installation of fiber optic wiring from media box to scoreboard and wall mount fiber cabinet in media box.

Fairwinds Golf Course

Fairwinds Golf Course accomplished a major project during the year 2002, which was the regrassing of all greens. This project took approximately three months to complete. The work proceeded without any delays and all who enjoy the amenities of the Fairwinds Golf Facility has praised the result.

In early June 2002, Fairwinds management and staff created one new tee on hole 16, and lengthened holes 1, 5, and 14. This project was done completely in-house and made a significant impact on the golf course.

In the early summer of 2002, The Fairwinds implemented an exotic plant program and proceeded to landscape those areas with native vegetation.

In May 2002, the St. Lucie County Junior Golf Association (SLCJGA) was created. The SLCJGA is dedicated to the advancement of Junior Golf in St. Lucie County and the surrounding areas. All junior golfers between the ages of 7-18 are welcome to become a member of the SLCJGA.

Finally, the restaurant underwent renovations to serve the golfing public better.



Public Safety

St. Lucie County Public Safety/E-911 handles all 911 calls for fire, rescue or law enforcement for the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie and the unincorporated areas of the County. The Center employs 46 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees. As of December 31, 2002 the 9-1-1 Center has handled 302,602 calls on the 14 E-911 trunks and approximately 95,000 calls on the 6 administration lines of which 14,464 were alarm calls with 8,467 being charged for false alarms.

As of December 31, 2002 the Center has dispatched 49,761 calls to the Fort Pierce Police Department and has handled 17,190 self initiated calls made by the Officers. 68,556 calls were dispatched to the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office along with 174,865 self initiated calls made by the Officers. 52,662 calls were dispatched to the Port St. Lucie Police Department along with 16,678 self initiated calls made by the Officers. These totals do not include dispatches of back-up officers. 28,665 Rescue and Fire Runs were dispatched.

St. Lucie County Animal Control

Animal Control is operated with one coordinator, two full time and two part-time employees. Animal Control officers are responsible for enforcing the state statutes and local ordinances regarding animals. Animal Control officers are dispatched through 9-1-1 communication. The calls for service are mainly in the unincorporated sections of St. Lucie County. Assistance is given to the cities of Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and the town of St. Lucie Village on an emergency basis. For the year 2002 Animal Control received 8,970 complaints, handled 119 bite cases and investigated 230 cruelty cases. The total number of animals transported to the Humane Society by Animal Control was 1,834. Public presentation to neighborhood associations and schools totaled 15.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management is operated with an Emergency Management Coordinator and one clerical staff. Emergency Management handles and coordinates all major emergencies within incorporated and unincorporated local jurisdictions, working with local, state and federal agencies. Recently acquired an additional \$10,000 to shutter two more schools in Fort Pierce as hurricane shelters.

Works closely with all emergency response, as well as human service and non-profit agencies in preparation for disasters. Held emergency preparedness meetings throughout the year with local government officials. Conducted various exercises including, nuclear power plant and hurricane involving local, state and federal officials. Attended quarterly meetings as a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee District 10 on hazardous material matters. Helped sponsor and attended Terrorism training for Treasure Coast agencies. Attended state required training and conferences. Conducted disaster orientation for county department heads. During the 2002 Tropical Storm Season, Emergency Management tracked a total of 12 named tropical storms. We have responded to over 40 call-outs including hazardous material spills, fires and other emergency incidents during and after normal working hours. Approximately 50 public presentations were made to neighborhood associations and medical care groups along with numerous radio and TV appearances for public education. Printed and distributed several thousand brochures and assorted disaster preparedness literature.

Marine Safety

Marine Safety consists of 9 full-time, 3 part-time, and 10 summer time temporaries. All full-time employees are required to have an Emergency Medical Technician State Certification as a minimum. Renewed yearly is the CPR certification for the Professional Rescuer. Lifeguard Certification, is renewed every three years. Part-time employees must obtain a First Responder Certification through Red Cross as a minimum, renewed yearly is the CPR

*Karen Taylor,
Public Safety
Animal Control
Coordinator*



Public Safety



*Andrew Ritchy, Public Safety
Marine Safety Coordinator*

Certification for the Professional Rescuer and a Lifeguard Certification, also renewed every three years. Daily physical and mental training is required for all employees. Supervisors are sent to training seminars periodically

throughout the year, (for all terrain vehicles, personal water craft as well as managerial training). We have a total of 11 lifeguard towers throughout St. Lucie County. Six (6) which are manned all year. The remaining towers are occupied from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They are Pepper Park, South Beach Boardwalk, Kimberly Bergalis, Surfside, Jaycee Park, Frederick Douglas and Waveland Beach. For the fiscal year 01-02 we had an estimated 425,000 visitors to our guarded beaches. Preventative actions totaling 5,323, first aid (94), lost patrons, (3), which were all found and 24 total water rescues. Less rescues for 2002 were due to more preventative actions. Enforcement actions totaled 35, 3 arrests, these include boat and personal water craft infractions. Also theft and vandalism at area beaches.

Works closely with all emergency response, as well as human service and non-profit agencies in preparation for disasters. Held emergency preparedness meetings throughout the year with local

Radiological Planning

The Radiological Coordinator with one clerical staff, coordinates disaster planning and mitigation, involving Florida Power & Light's Nuclear Power Plant located on South Hutchinson Island. Local and of 90% and 94% respectively. State Plans are reviewed annually, changes are coordinated with the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Power & Light Emergency Planning as well as affected counties within a 50 mile radius of the plant site. Local plans for transport of special needs individuals, registered with the Division of Emergency Management, are reviewed annually, required changes are coordinated with local

transit authority and ambulance services. The Special Needs Registry, averaging about 500 county residents, is maintained on a daily basis. The registry is also updated semi-annually by mailing out registration confirmation forms to those registered. Radiological training is planned and conducted annually for all law enforcement, fire/rescue personnel, school bus drivers, local ambulance services, transit authorities, county and municipal agencies. Annual nuclear power plant exercises and medical transport drills are planned and coordinated with federal, state and local agencies.

For the year 2002, 775 personnel were given annual training. Final coordination was completed in early January for a nuclear power plant practice exercise and a federal evaluated drill. The practice exercise and evaluated drill involved Ft. Pierce, Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie County agencies, Martin, Palm Beach, Indian River Counties and State Division of Emergency Management.

The practice exercise was held January 23, 2002, followed by the FEMA evaluated drill held on February 20, 2002. The evaluation results were: no areas requiring corrective actions, all areas received the highest possible rating. Proficiency training on the receipt of the emergency notification form was conducted during quarterly drills held on April 24th and August 13th. The Special Needs Registry was validated during January and June. Review of and changes made to the Nuclear Power Plant Safety Planning Booklet was completed in August. Mail-out of the booklet to 109, 288 addresses within 10 mile emergency planning zone, was done in November. Review of and changes to the State of Florida Radiological Emergency Plan, was completed in August and submitted to the State Division of Emergency Management. Radiological monitoring equipment (1,200 dosimeters, 45 Geiger counters) were checked for operability each calendar quarter. In addition to FPL's bi-weekly silent testing of the St. Lucie Siren System, quarterly tests were conducted on the first Thursday, in the months of March, June, September and December. The purpose of the quarterly test is to maintain public awareness of its function and ensure its operability. The 12 month rolling average for availability during 2002 was 99.92%. This is well above the federal and NRC requirements.



Public Works

The Public Works Department is made up of Building and Zoning, Engineering, Environmental Resources, Road and Bridge, Solid Waste, Stormwater Management, and Erosion Control.

The main focus this year of the Public Works Administration Department has been the construction of the New St. Lucie County Fairgrounds.

Through a joint partnership with St. Lucie County, the Fair Association and Volunteers from the community, what was a dream a little over a year ago, is very much a reality today. The new St. Lucie County Fairgrounds is a leisure and recreational facility that all our Citizens will be proud to use and enjoy now and in the future.

Public Works Administration is also working to expand the capabilities of our County Stormwater Management Program. In March of 2003, the County will be required to comply with new stormwater regulations under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program, administered through the FDEP. Public Works is currently preparing a plan of implementation that will involve multiple County Departments and County-owned Facilities. Additionally, Public Works is providing management of special projects, including: Taylor Creek Dredging, Ten Mile Creek Recreation Area, and Port Development.

Ariel view of the new fairgrounds just prior to the 38th Annual St. Lucie County Fair



Engineering Division

This past year was a very good year for enhancing our Pedestrian Facilities. Over two miles of the Indian River Lagoon Shared-use Path were constructed beginning at the Martin/St. Lucie County line. Covered rest stops complete with landscaping were constructed at three county park entrances. This path will eventually run the full length of South Hutchinson Island. A similar length of pathway was also constructed in the Lakewood Park neighborhood. The path runs along the west side of King's Highway and will eventually be expanded to provide a safe route for children walking to the neighborhood's elementary school.

Our Bridge Improvements this year upgraded the bridge carrying Edwards Road over Five-mile Creek with new guard rail, drainage improvements and slope protection. The old bridge for Orange Avenue over Header Canal was also removed and replaced with a Con-Span prefabricated concrete arch spanning the full width of the right-of-way to accommodate the eventual four-laning of this very important corridor. Additionally, design of a new bridge to replace the one carrying Juanita Avenue over Moore's Creek has begun. This design should take one to two years to design and permit.

Our Culvert Program continued the pace set in previous years. This year's culvert replacements were Bluefield Road over the Bluefield Canal. On this project three 72-inch metal pipes were replaced by a single aluminum pipe arch 12 feet in diameter and all of the installation was completed in a single day. Cortez Boulevard over Canal 29, Sunrise Boulevard over Merritt Ditch, and Merritt Ditch west of US 1 were also replaced this year. A culvert enhancement project was completed at Goldsmith Road over Header Canal that included almost 300 lineal feet of sheet piling to protect the canal banks from erosion.

Public Works



Commissioner Paula Lewis, Charles Grande, Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson and Commissioner Cliff Barnes conduct the Ribbon Cutting for the South Hutchinson Island Pathway

Our Road Widening projects included the Orange Avenue Widening which added two-feet to each of the two travel lanes from King's Highway west to the county line. This work stretched for more than 17 miles. Our design plans to complete the four-laning of 25th Street made great head way. The last two-lane segment, from Midway Road to Edwards Road, should go to construction in about a year and provide for a continuous four-lane section. This important route will serve as an alternate north-south corridor west of US 1.

The (Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) Program continues to expand. The program is presently managing over 25 individual MSBU projects at various stages of development. All of the projects have the potential to bring change and opportunity to our County. Some of these, such as the Lennard Road MSBU (paving and drainage improvements) and the Indian River Estates MSBU (potable water service) will bring significant change. Every MSBU project completed to date has come in under budget and has been a tremendous success.

Road & Bridge Division

The Road & Bridge Division has 78 employees plus 14 contract labor employees. The Division has four (4) Operating Units and is responsible for

- providing maintenance and reconstructing of County roadways and drainage facilities.;
- maintaining 350 miles of paved roadways, 134 miles of rock/dirt roads, and 31 miles of asphalt milled roads accepted by the Board for maintenance. Road maintenance includes right-of-way mowing, surface patching, shoulder repair, and grading of dirt roads.
- designing of new signals; the maintenance, repair and operation of existing signals, and flashers; the fabrication of regulation, warning and street signs; the installation of signs; the application annually of roadway thermoplastic stripping and marking of paved roadways; conducting traffic counts and traffic operation studies; maintaining the County's accident data base.

This past year, the Road and Bridge Division installed 1,306 signs and posts, installed 143 feet of guardrail and restriped 51 miles of roadway.

The Drainage Unit - is responsible for the mechanical cleaning of 1100+ miles of roadway ditches/swales and 50+ miles of primary drainways/canals. The unit includes a small construction crew utilized for MSBU related roadway/drainage construction, as well as drop inlet, culvert, and similar drainage construction projects. This section manages the roadway-resurfacing program and the Driveway Permit Inspections for the County. This year, the Drainage Unit resurfaced 15 miles of roadway, issued 192 permits and completed significant construction at the new fairgrounds.



Public Works

The Stormwater Unit (MSTU) - Oversees swale/canal maintenance throughout the Unincorporated County. During 2002, our swale/canal maintenance crews completed work in Timberlake Estates, Hidden Pines, Buchannon Drive and portions of River Park. Routine swale maintenance of 50,000+ L.F. was completed in various locations all over the County. We accomplish this by managing our crews and contract crews. This year, the Stormwater Unit re-established 8 miles of roadside swales/ditches using contract crews, cleaned and maintained 3 miles of side and rear lot ditches and replaced 65 culverts to re-establish proper drainage.

Environmental Resources

The Environmental Resources Division has fourteen employees and is responsible for the development, permitting, protection and enhancement of the natural resources of the properties acquired by St. Lucie County. This includes habitat restoration, land

management and public access on environmental lands in accordance with approved management plans that will provide passive educational programs to the public through guided and self-guided tour programs. The ERD launched its official website in 2002.



Birding Walk at the Oxbow Eco-Center

The website contains information on each of the Environmentally Significant Lands and a calendar of events sponsored by the division.

The Environmental Lands Section manages twelve sites and assists in the management of an additional six parcels totaling over 7,000 acres. Management activities include mowing, exotic removal, fencing and clearing, trail construction, educational programming, controlled burning and kiosk construction. Ocean Bay, a 33 acre site on North Hutchinson Island, was opened for public use in 2002. Site improvements included, kiosks, nature trails, pamphlets and a beach dune crossover. In addition to sites opened for public use, improvements were completed on Spruce Bluff,

Pinelands, Bluefield Ranch, Indrio Savannahs, Kings Island, Queens Island, Sweetwater Hammock, and Walton Scrub.

The Environmental Lands Section initiated nature programs at each of the Environmental Lands in September. These nature programs are held two to three times a month and include Owl Prowls, Meteor Watches, Nature Hikes and Birding Walks.

The Resource Protection Section is responsible for the review of County site and landscaping plans, conducting site visits to verify environmental reports and tree surveys, review of vegetation review permits, and conducting pre and post land clearing inspections as well as final landscape inspections. With the help of grant funding to install a new irrigation system at the St. Lucie County Jail's Work Farm, trees and other native plants are being rescued from development sites for future planting on environmental lands. This year, we applied for a grant to purchase a watering truck to help us ensure the long-term survivability of transplanted vegetation.

The Oxbow Eco-Center was busy in 2002 hosting over 60 programs for over 1,000 people. Programs included Nature Hikes and Crafts, Bottle Biology Classes, Environmental Clean-ups and Birding Classes. Over all, the Oxbow had over 5,100 visitors.

Solid Waste

After one year of operation, the St. Lucie County Solid Waste Baling and Recycling Facility has exceeded our expectations. Prior to baling the 500 tons of garbage per day, we removed 2,500 tons of metal and 250 tons of cardboard for recycling. We expect those quantities to



St. Lucie County Solid Waste employees stacking bales

more than double in this second year. The Balefill is now in the process of building a Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling Facility and will be in operation in early 2004.

Public Works

Code Compliance Division

In 2002, the St. Lucie County Building and Zoning Division issued 9741 building permits and performed 46,465 inspections. The value of construction was over \$181 million, an increase of \$61.9 million over 2001. A number of changes have been implemented to serve the customer better and more efficiently through a department renovation by our own staff employees. The four Plans Examiners are now located in the Permitting Department to allow direct contact with the public and team with a Zoning Tech to process and issue permits. New service windows and workstations were installed by relocating Permitting Techs at the front service counter. The Permitting Supervisor's office was relocated to have a better observation of the service counter. It is our goal to make the permitting and inspection process as painless as possible. The department has received many positive comments on the direction that the division is going. In the coming year, we are implementing a new software program that will allow a person to track their permit application from submittal to the final "Certificate of Completion" using the internet. It will also allow a customer to schedule inspections, check whether an inspection has passed or failed, and pay for a re-inspection fee and reschedule the inspection. In the future, it will have the capability to receive permit applications and fees via the Internet, allowing a person to obtain a permit without leaving their home or office. Restructuring of the Division has been completed to make the Division work more efficiently and become user-friendlier to all involved. You can check out our website at: www.stlucieco.gov and click on "The Permit Shop."



*Code
Compliance
Employees
Louise Butt,
Christine
Moller and
Bev Dimon*

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement's caseload will continue to rise with the addition of two new codes, the Exterior Maintenance Ordinance and the Noise Ordinance. Code Enforcement will now be on call to monitor these noise complaints. However, this will only pertain to business noise complaints and not domestic noise complaints. Each full-time Code Officer is projected to handle 900 cases this year and the part-time Code Officer is projected to handle 400 cases. The responses from various Homeowners Associations, local business owners, and crime watch groups have been excellent. Even though our complaint load has increased; we have cut our response time from 5 to 7 days down to 2 to 3 days (serious life safety complaints are handled immediately) with the added personnel. Code Enforcement has also taken over the inspection of new businesses or Zoning Compliances. This allows the county to ensure that new businesses follow the Land Development Code requirements and helps educate new business owners before they obtain their Occupational Licenses.

Contractor Licensing

With the increase in construction in the county and the addition of the Contractor Licensing Investigator, Contractor Licensing has seen a major increase in applicants. Contractor Licensing has almost doubled its number of applicants from last year and is projected to do 100 to 150 more in the upcoming year. The Contractor Licensing Investigator has caught 75 unlicensed contractors and has also been working with the State Workers Comp Investigator to make sure that licensed contractors are properly insured and meeting all county codes. Our Licensing Investigator currently covers all 620 square miles of St. Lucie County and is also responsible for responding to complaints from citizens and consumers.



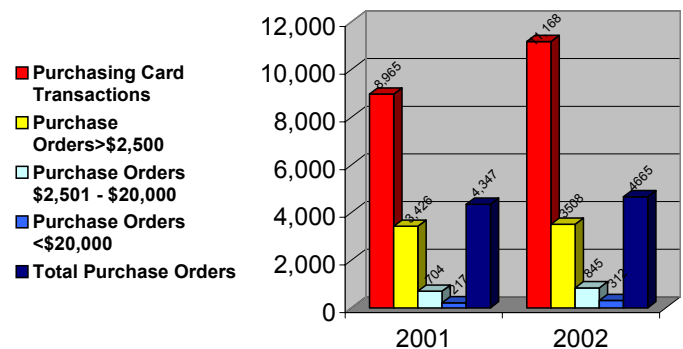
Purchasing

In keeping with the Purchasing Department's mission to provide cost savings to our County citizens while ensuring integrity, quality and efficiency in the Procurement process, the Purchasing Department has initiated the following process improvements:

- Raised the Formal Bid Limit to provide for a more cost efficient and effective method of purchasing lower dollar materials and services;
- Raised the transaction limit of the Purchasing Credit Card to increase the usage and provide additional revenue through rebates from the card issuer;
- Established procedures for the Debarment of Vendors to insure that the County utilizes the services of competent suppliers;
- Formulated standard Bid, Request for Proposal and Request for Qualifications documents to provide consistency and ease of submittal by prospective suppliers;
- Amended internal procedures and provided training to improve vendor payments;
- Digital scanning of archived records to reduce storage space and ease of retrieval;

- Enhancement of Material Center equipment to provide quicker turn-around time and additional services for printed materials; and
- Increase Purchasing Card transactions to produce savings through reduction in mailing and printing cost of purchasing orders.

Key indicators of the Purchasing Department's accomplishments are listed below:



Ed Parker, Purchasing Director

Utilities

Utilities continues to realize growth in all systems that we operate. As a result of the continued growth activity in the systems, the Utility Department has undergone many improvements throughout all the systems. The North Hutchinson Island system, the South Hutchinson Island System and the North County System have all implemented on site policies and procedures to improve security. All the systems have received new automated security gates to restrict areas to the facilities. The automated gates allow our operations staff to perform their activities and secure the facility at all times. And at the North County System, a new 6" chain link fence has been installed on the south side of the plant. Security has been a concern to Utilities, and we have taken and continue to take the necessary steps to secure our facilities and it's staff.



South Hutchinson service area

The South Hutchinson Island district, we are currently working on improvements and modifications on four lift stations. Also, construction is under way for one new lift station on South Hutchinson Island. In addition to construction activities, Utilities is pursuing development of a supplemental source of water for our reclaimed water system. In severe dry times or drought conditions, our island population diminishes thus reducing our wastewater flows. The decreased flows result in a shortage of reclaimed water that hinders the ability to provide minimal irrigation to our customers. The ability to supplement our reclaimed

water will provide for a better level of service to our customers and eliminate the purchase of domestic water in the future. The North County System (Holiday Pines) has undergone many modifications and improvements so Utilities can better serve our customers. All of the membrane filters at the water plant have been upgraded and replaced to improve the quality of our water. At the wastewater treatment facility, the Blower/Generator building has been rebuilt and the electrical panel has been replaced for the blowers. Also, construction has begun on the Aerated Equalization Tank, which will allow utilities to improve the treatment process of the facility.

The North Hutchinson Island system has recently replaced a water line at the North end of the system as well as extended the line. Utilities has also refurbished the wet well at the main plant master lift station and participated with the State of Florida to extend utility service to the newly constructed Avalon Park. Construction has also just begun on improvement at the wastewater treatment facility that includes a new reclaimed water distribution pumping and controls modifications to the head works and digesters that will improve air quality at the plant.

Utilities has received a Grant from the South Florida Water Management District, through the alternate Water Source Program, for the extension of the reclaimed water lines of which construction is currently in progress.

As we move ahead we look forward to a new year and strive to provide our customers with the highest level of service and satisfaction possible. We would like to extend special thanks to all the County Departments that provide the Utility Department assistance throughout the year, our Board of County Commissioners for their continuing support, and especially our customers.



Veterans Services

The Veteran Services Department mission is to serve St. Lucie County's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive medical care, benefits, and social support. Our professional staff is customer-focused, functioning as a team to deliver the means of improving the quality of life to more than 37,000 veterans living in St. Lucie County.

Our close involvement with the staff from the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center remains a productive tool in bringing more medical benefits to veterans in the county. Active participation with the Council of Social Agencies, Transportation Disadvantaged Board, VA Medical Center Volunteer Services and the County Veteran Services Association enable the staff to provide the support necessary to promote the health, welfare, and dignity of veterans and their families.

Our staff works closely with the St. Lucie County Veterans Advisory Council. The Council acts as a collection agency for all veterans groups within St. Lucie County, making recommendations to the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners concerning veteran affairs.



Jim Magee, Medical Transportation Coordinator assists a disabled veteran upon return from West Palm Beach VA Medical Center

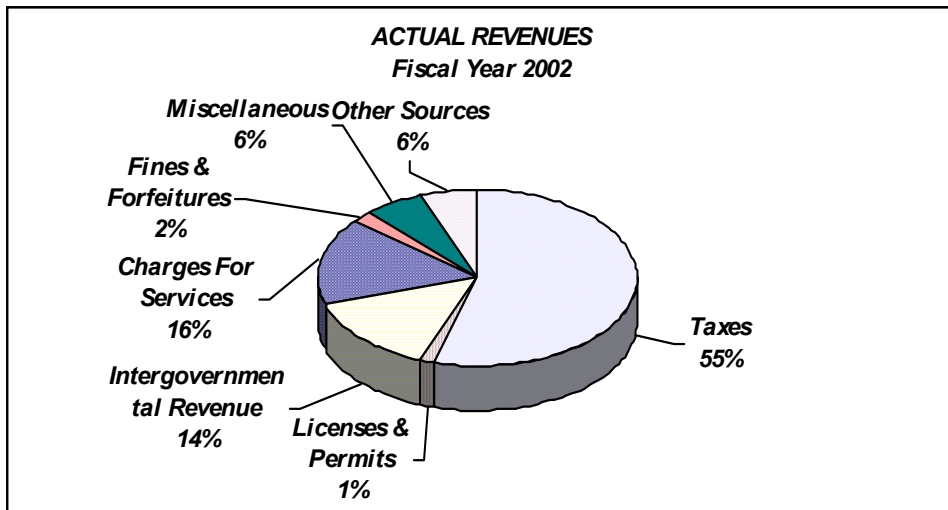


Veterans Services Director Paul Hiott is chosen as the 2002 St. Lucie County Employee of the Year

Accomplishments

- Veteran Service Officers counseled 9,841 veterans and their dependents;
- Veterans benefit claims processed totaled 4,322;
- Implemented an on-call van driver system to ensure adequate transportation is provided to disabled veterans requiring medical care at West Palm Beach VA Medical Center;
- Medical transportation was provided to 4,570 disabled veterans;
- Administrative support team fielded 35,782 phone inquiries; and
- Provided employment to eight veterans attending college via the Veterans Education Work Study Program.

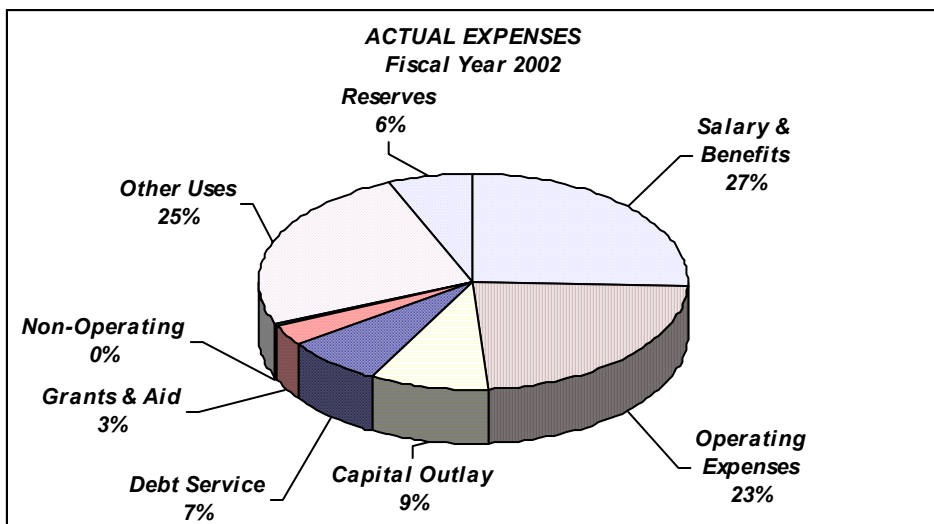
Budget Appropriation Summary (Unaudited)



FISCAL YEAR 2002

ACTUAL REVENUES	
Taxes	84,750,399
Licenses & Permits	2,067,190
Intergovernmental Revenue	22,206,280
Charges For Services	24,826,339
Fines & Forfeitures	3,150,256
Miscellaneous	9,445,462
Other Sources	<u>9,148,661</u>
Total	155,594,587

ACTUAL EXPENSES	
Salary & Benefits	39,817,403
Operating Expenses	36,356,326
Capital Outlay	13,889,221
Debt Service	10,997,643
Grants & Aid	5,428,392
Non-Operating	66,398
Other Uses	38,978,056
Reserves	10,061,148
Total	155,594,587





St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

Doug Anderson, County Administrator

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